



URBAN DISTRICT OF ASHINGTON

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Chief Public Health Inspector

for the Year

1966

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for 1966

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Ashington

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you my report and that of the Chief Public Health Inspector for the year 1966.

Apart from a fall in the number of births, resulting in a reduction in the birth-rate from 16.14 per 1000 of the population in 1965 to 15.27 in 1966, the vital statistics are better than they were in the previous year.

The still-birth rate, the death-rate and the infant mortality rate are all lower than in 1965, the last named, at 12.92 per 1,000 live births, being almost certainly the lowest ever recorded in Ashington and certainly the lowest this century.

There were no deaths attributed to tuberculosis in any form and there were 53 deaths from malignant neoplasms compared with 68 in 1965.

The demolition of South Villas and the out-worn pre-fabs and their replacement by new Council houses, built to a much higher standard than formerly, greatly improved living conditions for many families. Altogether 222 Council houses were completed during the year, while 54 houses were built by private enterprise and 16 by another housing authority and 172 discretionary grants and 8 standard grants were approved to provide older houses with modern amenities.

The total number of discretionary grants approved up to the end of 1966 was now 2,088 and the total number of standard grants was 91, making a grand total of 2,179 grants since the inception of grant aid for modernising houses.

These figures represent a very satisfactory improvement in housing standards in the town but there is still a great need for housing suitable for those crippled in one way or another by ill-health or old age.

Finally I must say how much I appreciate the work of the Public Health Inspectors, the co-operation received from other officials of the Council and the continuing interest shown by the Council in the work of the Health Department.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Councillors,
Your obedient Servant,
C.B. McGregor, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Assistant Medical Officer

KATHLEEN DICK,
M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Chief)
Public Health)
Meat) Inspector

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M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Public Health Inspector (Meat)

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SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the mid-1966 population was 26,360, which was a further reduction of 120 on the figure for mid-1965.

Owing to the continuing uncertainty about the future of the coal industry in the area the question of alternative forms of employment was one to which the Council gave a great deal of consideration during the year. The position was further aggravated by the disastrous underground fire which caused the closure of Lynemouth Colliery which had been looked upon as the pit with the most secure future.

The erection of the Council's and of the Board of Trade's advance factories, each of 10,000 sq. ft., began in June and in the same month the Board of Trade announced that it would build a second factory, this one to have an area of 26,000 sq. ft.

These measures are, however, the merest beginning of what will be required to maintain employment if the coal industry, as seems likely, declines still further in this part of Northumberland.

Area in Acres	6,057
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid-1966	26,360
Rateable Value.....	£740,695
One Penny Rate Produces	£2,860
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1966)	9,085
Total number of houses owned by Local Authority.....	2,365

VITAL STATISTICS.

(The figures in brackets are the corresponding figures for England and Wales)

BIRTHS

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	370	176	194
Illegitimate	17	4	13
	<u>387</u>	<u>180</u>	<u>207</u>

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population 14.68
(Comparability Factor 1.04) Standard Birth Rate 15.27 (17.7)

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	7	4	3

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births 17.77 (15.4)

DEATHS

<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
303	184	119

Death Rate per 1,000 of the population 11.49
(Comparability Factor 1.19) Standard Death Rate 13.67 (11.7)
Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births . Nil (0.26)

<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 year</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	5	5	-

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year

All infants per 1,000 live births 12.92 (19.0)
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 13.51
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births . Nil

<u>Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	3	3	-

<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 week</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	2	2	-

Neonatal Mortality Rate (Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births) 7.75 (12.9)
Early Neonatal Death Rate (Infants under 1 week) 5.17 (11.1)
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths and Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live and still births) 22.84 (26.3)

The Registrar-General supplies the following:-

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1966.

						<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...		-	-
2.	Tuberculosis, (other forms)	..	...	...		-	-
3.	Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...	...	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	.	...	...	...	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...		-	-
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	...	..	...	...	-	-
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...				-	-
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	.	...	...		5	-
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	.	...			12	1
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, breast	...	...	...		-	4
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...		-	1
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	..				17	13
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	.	...	...	...	1	-
16.	Diabetes	..	...	...	...	1	2
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	.	...			19	17
18.	Coronary Disease, angina	...	...	...		54	27
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...			1	1
20.	Other Heart Diseases	...	...	...	...	5	11
21.	Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...		8	7
22.	Influenza	..	...	...	...	-	-
23.	Pneumonia	..	...	...	...	10	8
24.	Bronchitis	.	...	...	...	19	8
25.	Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	.				2	-
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	.	...	...		2	-
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	.	...			1	2
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	.	...	...	...	1	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	.	...	...	...	1	-
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	...	...			-	-
31.	Congenital Malformations	...	...	...		-	-
32.	Other Defined and Ill-defined diseases	...				14	11
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	.	...	...	...	4	1
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	5	4
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	2	-
36.	Homicide and Operations of War	...	...			-	-
Total						184	119

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH IN ASHINGTON

Causes	Total Number	% of Total Deaths
Diseases of Heart and Circulation	114	37.62
Malignant Neoplasms	54	17.82
Pneumonia and Bronchitis	45	14.85
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	36	11.88
Total	249	82.17

INFANTILE MORTALITY

The following table gives details of the causes of death in the different age groups during the past year.

	Under 1 day	1 - 6 days	1 week	2 weeks	3 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1 - 3 months	4 - 6 months	7 - 9 months	10 - 11 months	Total under 1 year.
Prenaturity	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Cerebral Anoxia	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Haemolytic Disease of the Newborn	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Asphyxia (Inhalation of Vomit)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Total	1	1	1	-	-	3	1	-	1	-	5

The following table shows the comparative mortality rate during the past ten years.

	'57	'58	'59	'60	'61	'62	'63	'64	'65	'66
Infantile deaths under 1 yr.	15	11	12	15	9	8	7	14	9	5
Infantile mortality	33.41	24.83	26.32	30.93	20.98	17.69	15.42	32.04	21.89	12.92

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities.

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service at the Newcastle General Hospital and additional facilities are available at Ashington General Hospital.

The extent to which these facilities have been utilised is shown below:

Specimens sent by	Specimen	Pos	Neg
Medical Officer of Health	Faeces for pathogenic organisms	12	27
General Practitioner	" " "	5	1
Regional Hospital Board Physician	" " "	1	-
Medical Officer of Health	Food for pathogenic organisms	-	1
8 Sensitivity tests were carried out.			

Maternity and Child Welfare Services.

The County Council is the Local Health Authority and is responsible for the provision of these services. The Clinic is situated in South View, and there are regular sessions for infant welfare, toddlers, ophthalmic examinations and immunisation. Children and expectant mothers can also receive dental treatment there and relaxation classes are held for expectant mothers.

Ante-natal care is now entirely in the hands of the general practitioners, one of whom makes use of the premises for his clinics.

Ambulance Service.

This service is provided by the County Council from the Ambulance Station in West View, where 16 drivers are employed, working three eight-hour shifts, maintaining a 24-hour service.

Meals on Wheels.

The Women's Royal Voluntary Service continued to organise and run the Meals on Wheels on behalf of the Old People's Voluntary Welfare Committee, with financial assistance from the District Council and the County Council.

During 1966, 2,826 meals were delivered to old, house-bound people in Ashington.

In addition, the Luncheon Club at Bothal Cottages provided 4,945 meals for old people in that neighbourhood. In this case the meals are cooked on the Club premises by teams of members of the W.R.V.S.

I am indebted to the County Organiser of the W.R.V.S. for the figures given above.

Chiropody.

This service continued to be greatly appreciated during the year and to play an important part in keeping the old people mobile.

SECTION C.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

Year ended 31st December, 1966

	No. of inspections during year.	No. of defects or contra-ventions of Byelaws.	No. of informal notices served.	Defects remedied by informal action.	Defects remedied under Improvement Grant Procedure	No. of Statutory Notices served.	Defects remedied by Statutory action.	Legal Proceedings.
<u>Housing.</u>								
Structural Defects	654	271	56	42	215	-	-	-
Defective food store		5	5	2	2	-	-	-
Dampness		182	28	18	154	-	-	-
Overcrowding		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Water supply.</u>								
Insufficient	91	6	6	5	-	-	-	-
Unsatisfactory		1	1	1	-	-	-	-
<u>Drainage.</u>								
Insufficient	111	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unsatisfactory		4	4	4	-	-	-	-
<u>Sanitary Conveniences.</u>								
Insufficient	62	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unsatisfactory		23	21	13	2	-	-	-
<u>General</u>								
Food Premises	655	230	230	31	-	-	-	-
Dairies	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Slaughterhouses	655	14	-	14	-	-	-	-
Tents, Vans, etc.	56	7	-	7	-	-	-	-
Offensive Trades	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Keeping of Animals	12	3	-	3	-	-	-	-
Offensive Accumulations	54	12	-	12	-	-	-	-
Smoke Nuisances	23	5	-	5	-	-	-	-
Noise Nuisances	14	3	-	3	-	-	-	-
Refuse Collection & Disposal	711	11	-	11	-	-	-	-
Factories & Workplaces	69	2	-	6	-	-	-	-
Offices & Shops	513	698	698	224	-	-	-	-
Total	3688	1477	1049	401	373	-	-	-

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

General.

The abatement of nuisance was again achieved almost entirely by informal action, and it was not found necessary to serve any Statutory Notices during the year.

Inspections were carried out in connection with all Improvement Grant applications and necessary repairs were carried out before the grants were approved. These repairs have been included in the tables.

A total of 180 Improvement Grants were made during the year, of which 8 were Standard Grants and 172 Discretionary Grants.

Of the 8 Standard Grants, 7 were for owner occupied houses and 1 for a tenanted house, while for Discretionary Grants, 16 were for owner occupied houses and 156 for tenanted houses.

The Discretionary Grants made since the inception of the scheme now total 2088.

The total number of Standard Grants now given is 91 and the facilities provided by the 8 grants given during 1966 are detailed in Section D of the report.

No Improvement Areas were declared under the Housing Act, 1964, as systematic area improvement is still being carried out by the National Coal Board in co-operation with the Council. No representations by tenants for house improvement have been made under the Act.

No applications for Certificates of Disrepair under the Rent Act, 1957 were made during the year.

The table below summarises the notices served:-

Nuisances dealt with and work required to be done	Verbal or Written Notices	Defects Remedied
Insufficient, choked or defective drainage	4	4
Defective W.C. basins	14	7
Defective W.C. cisterns & service pipes .	9	7
Defective water supply and lack of internal water supply	1	1
Defective sinks and waste pipes and provision for internal water supply	-	-
Defective or missing ashbins	2	2
Defective roofs	42	40
Damp walls	147	139
Defective spouts	39	37
Defective wallplaster	13	13
Defective ceilings	95	91
Defective doors, windows and floors	89	88
Defective ranges, fireplaces and setpot boilers	-	-
Defective chimney flues	42	44
Defective paving and yard surfaces	7	5
Defective outbuildings	7	4
Defective food store	5	4
Offensive accumulations	-	-
Other defects	4	4

Water Supply.

The water supply to the area is provided by Tynemouth Corporation from Fontburn and Tosson to Hebron Reservoir, and by gravity main to Ashington, with an additional supply provided by the Coquet Water Board.

Work was completed during the year on laying a new and larger main into Sheepwash Village and new filtration plant was installed at Fontburn treatment works, which brought about further improvement in the colour of the water.

Further work was carried out to improve the supply to the Moorhouse Farm area, and the supply was generally found to be adequate.

49 water samples were taken for bacteriological examination of which 39 samples show no coliform bacilli per 100 m.l.

The remaining 10 samples were all taken from Bothal Village, and were part of a series of samples taken in various parts of the village to determine the source of contamination which showed itself in August.

The storage tank was shown to be defective and was emptied and repaired.

Following re-filling and chlorination, sample results returned to normal but constant checks will be necessary to ensure that further contamination does not occur.

Sewerage.

Preparation of the scheme to build a new sewerage system at Woodhorn Village was completed and application for Ministry approval was made during the year. It was hoped that work would commence early in the summer of 1967.

The re-routing of the Black Close Sewer and the new branch to the Hospital area were completed during the year.

It is still intended that the main sewerage system be further examined, with particular reference to the two main storm water overflows at North Seaton Crossing and North Seaton Hotel.

There is nothing further to report with regard to sewage disposal in the Lintonville area. It should not be forgotten however, that while the cost of a sewage disposal system in this area would be high in relation to the number of people it would serve, there are still something like 80 persons employed there.

Swimming Baths.

The swimming baths belong to the Ashington Miners' Welfare Institute, but are available to the general public as well as to Institute Members, and are open from April to September each year.

The water used is from the main water supply and is treated by continuous chlorination and filtration.

Six bacteriological samples of the baths were taken during the year, and all samples were reported to be satisfactory.

Regular sampling and testing is also undertaken by the Scientific Department of the National Coal Board in Ashington and copies of the reports are made available to this Department.

This co-operation is much appreciated.

Schools.

There are 11 Primary Schools in the District (6 junior. and 5 infant) 7 Secondary Schools, a Grammar School, Technical College Seniors Practical Instruction Centre, and a Training Centre for Handicapped children.

A new County-Aided Roman Catholic Secondary School, St. Benedicts, was opened, and extensions to the Grammar School were completed during the year.

Work was also commenced on the first phase of the new Coulson Park Primary School, and this should be completed early in 1967.

Inspections of school kitchens were carried out as far as possible during the year.

Cinemas and Public Buildings.

Routine inspection of such buildings was carried out during the year.

Atmospheric Pollution.

The Council continued during the year to implement their policy of installing room heaters in Council Houses, and by the end of the year something like 400 houses were so equipped.

Although there is no doubt that the increasing number of these appliances are encouraging interest in the town in modern heating methods, it was discouraging to see that old habits die hard and that coal is still burned in these room heaters, resulting in many tarred, cracked and broken door glasses.

In spite of this it is an interesting exercise to compare the smoke from these houses, with that issuing from the chimneys of "normal" houses, and perhaps even more interesting to compare the clean chimney pots of smokeless houses with the soot encrusted pots of the coal burning houses.

It is a chastening thought that these comparisons demonstrate what is, and what could be, bearing in mind that this is the air we have to breathe and that our lungs have to cope with about 500 cubic feet of it every day.

Near the end of the year the Council agreed to designate their new estates at Newbiggin Road, Broomlee and Alexandra Road together with a new private estate in the same area, as smoke control areas and it was intended to initiate the procedure for this as soon as possible.

The monthly reports on results from the Deposit Gauge and Lead Peroxide Candles are appended for your consideration:-

Month	Rainfall in Inches	Total Deposits Tons/Sq. Mile	Sq. Centimetres per day Millimetres of SO ₂ per 100	
			Hirst Park	Memorial Park
January	1.42	12.03	2.11	1.72
February	2.68	15.04	1.70	1.39
March	0.16	8.51	1.69	1.14
April	3.63	14.36	1.02	1.13
May	2.21	16.25	1.08	1.08
June	3.21	17.05	0.75	0.63
July	2.20	9.87	0.50	0.32
August	4.95	13.81	0.55	0.35
September	1.16	8.37	0.90	0.77
October	3.90	17.14	1.21	1.34
November	2.16	12.69	1.84	1.13
December	2.47	14.67	2.25	1.54

Rodent Control.

Comparatively few complaints were received during the year and necessary treatments were promptly carried out.

Regular surveys of sewers, allotments, open spaces and other areas likely to harbour rats were made, resulting in the elimination of most infestations at an early stage. No sewer infestations were found.

No infestation, either rat or mouse, reached major proportions.

The following table summarises the work done:-

	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
Number of properties in district	10,818	27
Total number of properties inspected following notification	164	10
Number infested by (1) Rats (2) Mice	95 42	10 -
Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	357	50
Number infested by (1) Rats (2) Mice	15 9	3 -

Disinfestation.

Treatments carried out were as follows:-

	Council Houses	Private Houses
Beetles	22	11
Bugs	7	-
Earwigs	3	-
Spider Beetles	-	2
Silver Fish	-	1
Slugs	2	2
Flies	1	-

No charge is made for the treatment of Council houses, though private occupiers pay for the Disinfestor's time and for the insecticide used.

There were very few complaints of mosquito bites during the year, and though all the likely pools were examined from time to time, no larvae were found.

Pet Animals Act.

One licence to sell Pet Animals was granted to a stall holder in the closed market.

Riding Establishments Act 1964.

There is one riding establishment in the area, and following the submission of the Veterinary Surgeon's report, the licence was renewed for a further twelve months.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The proximity of the Council tip to the main Ellington Road continued to demonstrate the unpleasing aspects of crude refuse tipping. While rat infestations were few, due to keeping open tip faces to a minimum windblown dust and paper provided an untidy and unpleasant spectacle, caused uncomfortable working conditions and wasted countless man-hours on the dreary and unproductive job of cleaning up the hedgerows.

Tip fires too have been a problem caused by the thoughtless placing of hot ashes in bins, and more frequently, by irresponsible visitors to the tip after working hours. It is extremely frustrating to leave the tip in a tidy condition at night, only to find that it has to be dozed out again to put out fires, resulting in more untidiness and an enforced departure from the planned progression of the tip.

At the end of the year, we had almost completed the present section of the tip and were negotiating with the National Coal Board for an extension. The increasing volume of refuse is filling up tipping space much more rapidly, and this last section, about 8 acres, took only 18 months to fill.

With these factors in mind, the Council discussed other methods of disposal, and visited two refuse pulverising plants.

As a result, they decided in principle, on the provision of a refuse pulverising plant, and at the end of the year, full details and costs were being worked out.

711 visits and inspections were made during the year in connection with refuse collection and disposal.

Statistics and costs for the year 1965/1966 were as follows:-

Operational Statistics.

Total refuse collected	10,811 tons
Percentage of refuse weighed	7%
Weight (cwts) per 1,000 population per day	22.4 cwts.
No. of premises from which refuse is collected	9,323
Premises from which collections are made at least once weekly	100%
Average haul, single journey, to disposal point	2.3 miles
Salvage - Waste Paper - Weight:- ..	5 tons 13cwts.
Income:- ..	£50. 12s. 7d.
Trade Refuse - Weight:-	925 tons
Income:-	£539. 15s. 0d.

COSTS

	Collection	Disposal	Total
	£25,579	£6,866	£32,445
Gross cost/ton - Labour only	31/4d	5d	31/9d
Gross cost/ton - Transport only	16/7d	4/4d	20/11d
Nett cost (all expenditure) per ton	47/4d	12/8d	60/-
Nett cost per 1,000 population	£ 966	£259	£1225
Nett cost per 1,000 premises	£2744	£736	£3480

Refuse Disposal Vehicles and Staff.

<u>Vehicle Reg.</u>	<u>Make</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>First Registered.</u>
EJR 76 (Spare)	Shelvoke & Drewry	Fore & Aft Tipper	
		Petrol	6.10.51.
EJR 77	" " "	" " " "	1.12.51.
		Petrol	
LJR 136	" " "	" " " "	11. 5.57.
		Diesel	
PTY 988	" " "	" " " "	1.10.59.
		Diesel	
WTY 163	" " "	" " " "	7. 9.62.
		Diesel	
DNL 685C	" " "	" " " "	4. 1.65.
		Diesel	
FJR 608C	Austin	Mini Van	15. 6.65.
-	Bristol	Dozer	-

EJR 76 was to be replaced with a new Fore and Aft Tipper early in 1967.

Staff consist of:-

1 Foreman; 5 Drivers; 1 Dozer Driver/Tipman; 1 Spare Driver;
20 Binlifters (including one spare lifter).

FACTORIES ACT 1961.

There are 80 factories and workshops in the district. The following table gives details of inspections made and defects found during the year under review.

1. INSPECTIONS.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sects. 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by L.A.	3	10	-	-
2. Factories not included in 1 in which Sect.7 is enforced by L.A.	63	31	-	-
3. Other premises in which Sect.7 is enforced by L.A. (excl. outworkers' premises).13		15	-	-
Total	80	56	-	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

	Number of cases in which defects were found				No of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector.	
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences:					
a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
b) Unsuitable or defective	2	6	-	-	-
c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2	6	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACTOUTWORK

(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of outworkers in August 1st required by Section 133 (1)(c)	No. of cases in default in sending lists to the Council.	No. of prosecutions for failing to supply lists.	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing Apparel (Making etc.)	3	-	-	-	-	-
Artificial flowers	3	-	-	-	-	-
Total	6	-	-	-	-	-

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963.

Although twenty three premises were registered during the year, there was a reduction of twelve in the total number of registered premises. This was due to the thirty five premises which no longer came within the scope of the Act, either by closing down or ceasing to employ persons.

Of the 311 premises registered under the Act, 169 received a general inspection during the year, and at the end of the year, only 11 premises were yet to receive an initial general inspection.

513 visits and inspections under the Act were carried out for various purposes.

The following tables show details of registered premises:-

<u>REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS</u>			
Class of Premises	Number of Premises registered during the year.	Total number of registered premises at the end of the year.	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year.
Offices	6	60	28
Retail shops.	16	238	135
Wholesale shops & warehouses .	1	5	3
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	-	5	3
Fuel storage depots.	-	3	-
Total	23	311	169

ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED

PREMISES BY WORKPLACE

Class of Workplace	Number of persons employed
Offices	757
Retail shops	1226
Wholesale departments, warehouses .	28
Catering establishments open to the public	69
Fuel storage depots	18
Canteens	13
Total	2111
Total males	852
Total females	1259

No applications for exemption in respect of temperature, sanitary conveniences or washing facilities have been received.

One exemption from the first aid provision is in force in view of the existence of a Medical Centre which is available to the employees concerned.

The following table shows details of contraventions found:-
Analysis of Contraventions

Section	Number of contraventions found
4 Cleanliness	112
5 Overcrowding	4
6 Temperature	53
7 Ventilation	10
8 Lighting	15
9 Sanitary Conveniences	139
10 Washing facilities	82
11 Supply of drinking water	4
12 Clothing accommodation	3
13 Sitting facilities	-
14 Seats (Sedentary Workers)	-

Analysis of Contraventions cont'd.

Section	Number of contraventions found.	
15	Eating facilities	-
16	Floors, passages and stairs	124
17	Fencing exposed parts of machinery	30
18	Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery	-
19	Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery	1
23	Prohibition of heavy work	-
24	First Aid - General Provisions	63
50	Posting of Abstract	58
Total		698

18 accidents were notified during the year. Details of these were submitted to the Ministry of Labour in the quarterly returns and in the case of Accident Nos. 3, 4, 11 and 14, formal investigations were carried out, and investigation findings submitted to the Ministry.

Two of these cases resulted in formal warnings, in one case informal advice was given, and in the other case no action was found necessary.

Again, most of the accidents appeared to be the result of carelessness, but it was still found necessary to remind employers and supervisors of their responsibilities under the Act, on training and supervision of employees in the use of dangerous machinery.

Details of Accidents notified are as follows:-

TYPE OF PREMISES		NATURE OF ACCIDENTS.
1.	Retail shop	Jammed hand in garage door.
2.	" "	Strained back lifting goods.
3.	" "	Cut finger while using electric slicing machine.
4.	" "	Cut leg while carrying sheet of glass.
5.	" "	Cut hand on nail protruding from packing case.
6.	" "	Cut wrist on metal band around packing case.
7.	" "	Slipped and cut head on counter.
8.	" "	Stumbled against refrigerator door and bruised neck.
9.	" "	Cut finger with knife while putting up stock.
10.	" "	Slipped while holding meat knife & cut back.
11.	" "	Cut thumb while using meat slicing machine without safety device in position.
12.	" "	Cut fingers while opening tin of meat.
13.	" "	Twisted ankle on stepping off portable steps.
14.	" "	Jammed fingers against moving belt goods elevator.
15.	" "	Case of goods fell onto foot.
16.	" "	Glass display plate fell on foot.
17.	" "	Strained back while lifting goods.
18.	Office	Strained back when fell off chair.

Once again it was found that help and advice was readily available from Mr. J.M. Beattie, Deputy Superintending Inspector of Factories, ensuring that any action taken was in conformity with action taken elsewhere.

This assistance was particularly appreciated in relation to accidents and the guarding of machinery.

SECTION D.TABULAR STATEMENT OF HOUSING FOR THE YEAR 1966.Houses completed during the year:

a) By Local Authority	222
b) By other bodies or persons	70

Closing and Demolition.

1. Houses demolished in Clearance Areas	Nil
2. Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas	Nil
3. Houses closed, not demolished	1
4. Any other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included above	1

Repairs.Houses made fit by procedure under either Housing or P.H. Acts.

5. By informal action	29
6. By owners, following statutory notice	Nil
7. By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
8. Demolition Orders revoked after reconstruction	Nil

Houses Patched.

9. Houses in Clearance Areas retained for temporary accommodation	Nil
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Clearance Programme.

10. Number of unfit houses in clearance programme remaining to be dealt with at end of year	186
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Improvement Grants, Housing (Financial Provisions Act, 1958. and House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959.

<u>Discretionary Grants</u>	<u>Owner/Occupiers</u>	<u>Tenanted</u>	<u>Total No. of Separate Houses</u>
1. Applications received	16	156	172
2. Applications rejected	-	-	-
3. Applications approved	16	156	172

4. Approximate average grant approved per house	£257.		
5. Total amount of grant during the year	£44187		
6. Total number of applications approved since inception of scheme	2088		

<u>Standard Grants</u>	<u>Owner/Occupiers</u>	<u>Tenanted</u>	<u>Total No. of Separate Houses</u>
1. Applications received	7	1	8
2. Applications rejected	-	-	-
3. Applications approved	7	1	8

4. Approximate average grant approved per house	£57		
5. Total amount of grant during year	£458		
6. Total number of applications approved to date	91		
7. Amenities provided:-	<u>1966</u>	<u>To Date</u>	
a) Bath or shower	1	12	
b) Wash hand basin	1	20	
c) Hot water supply	1	17	
d) Water closet	8	85	
e) Food store	4	42	

West End Redevelopment.

The District Valuer was conducting negotiations with the National Coal Board during the year, and it was expected that a settlement would be reached early in 1967.

SECTION E.INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODIce Cream.

Eight premises in the area are registered for the manufacture of ice cream though in only six of these was ice cream manufactured during the year.

They were all inspected and were found to comply with the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment etc) Regulations 1959, and with the Food Hygiene Regulations.

39 samples of ice cream were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory.

The analysis of results is as follows:-

Grade	Mobiles				Premises			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Soft Ice-Cream	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Ice-Cream	2	-	-	-	32	2	-	-

Milk Supply

Three premises were registered as dairies and 57 persons as milk dealers. Since 1st January 1961, all milk licences have been issued by Northumberland County Council.

The County Health Department is also responsible for the taking of milk samples. 52 samples were taken during the year for bacteriological examination and three samples failed to pass the tests.

Food Shops and Food Preparing Premises.

The number of food premises by type, together with an analysis of washing equipment fitted is as follows:-

Trade	Number of Premises	Number of premises fitted to comply with Reg. 16 (wash hand basins)	Number of premises to which Reg. 19 applies (sinks etc)	Number of premises fitted to comply with Reg.19
Confectionery	19	16	10	8
Grocers & General	91	91	91	85
Butchers	24	24	24	23
Greengrocery	13	13	13	11
Bakery	11	11	11	11
Ice Cream Parlours	9	9	9	9
Fish Wet	2	2	2	2
Fried Fish	12	12	12	11
Cafes	3	3	3	3
Hotels	3	3	3	3
Clubs	23	18	23	23
School Kitchens	5	5	5	5
Canteens	9	9	9	9
Total	224	216	215	201

110 premises are registered for the sale or manufacture of ice cream, and 31 for the manufacture of sausage, preserved food etc. and of these 7 premises are registered for both purposes.

655 visits were made to food premises, and in addition food premises being inspected under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act were at the same time, dealt with under the Food Hygiene Regulations.

This accounts for the number of contraventions of the Food Hygiene Regulations found, which this year totalled 230. As work was being concentrated on initial inspections, most of these were yet to be revisited to check that contraventions had been remedied.

Food Hygiene standards were found to be quite high, the contraventions found being generally of a minor nature.

Food Complaints.

Fifteen food complaints were received and investigated during the year as follows:-

<u>Complaints</u>	<u>Prosecuted</u>	<u>Plea</u>	<u>Result</u>
1. Needle in loaf.	Yes	Guilty	Fined £20.
2. Mouldy sausages.	Yes	Guilty	Fined £10. and costs.
3. Mouldy muffins.	Yes	Guilty	Fined £4 " "
4. Adhesive dressing in Meat patty	Yes	Guilty	Fined £5.
5. Nail in bread.	Yes	Not guilty	Fined £10 and costs.
6. Mould in Pale Ale.	Yes	Guilty	Fined £20 " "
7. Part of nail in Swiss Tart.	Yes	Not guilty	Fined £5.
8. Polythene in meat pie.	Yes	Guilty	Fined £5.
9. Hair grip in biscuit	Yes	Guilty	Fined £5.
10. Nail in bread.	Yes	Not guilty	Magistrates found no case to answer.
11. Spider beetle larvae in cereal biscuit.	No		
12. Fermented lemonade.	No		
13. Metal turnings in veal baby food.	No		
14. Worm in Paella.	No		
15. Fungus beetle larvae in sweet confectionery	No		

In the last five cases, the Clerk did not consider that there was sufficient evidence to justify proceedings being taken, and the complaints were brought to the notice of the manufacturers and other persons concerned.

Food and Drugs.

Regular sampling of milk and other foods is carried out in the district by the Northumberland County Council.

Details of this work have been kindly provided by Mr.C.L. Arlidge, Chief County Weights and Measures Inspector, showing that 239 milk samples and 66 samples of other foods were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst.

All these samples were found to be genuine with the exception of the following:-

Milk - Four samples contained added water. The producer was prosecuted, convicted and fined.

White Coffee - Two samples from vending machines contained only non-fatty milk solids with added lactose. As the Public Analyst considered that a drink sold under this name should contain whole milk, the owner agreed to exhibit a notice stating that only skimmed milk was being used in the machine.

Chopped Pork with Ham - The ingredients were incorrectly listed and the canners undertook to amend the list when new labels were introduced.

Meat and Other Foods.

The four slaughterhouses continued to operate and licence renewals during the year were as follows:-

Slaughterhouse	Occupier	Licence Expires.
Back Wansbeck Terrace	A.T.C.S.	31st July 1967
Back Lintonville Terrace	W.J. Burgess & Sons Ltd.	31st July 1967
Wellhead Terrace	J. Wheatley	31st July 1967
Back 197 Alexandra Road	T. Davidson	31st July 1967

Hygiene standards remained generally good and though minor defects appeared from time to time, these were quickly remedied. All four slaughterhouses were inspected during the year by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. 100% Meat Inspection has been maintained, and the statutory procedure laid down by the Meat Inspection Regulations 1963, detailing methods of examination and stamping has been followed.

No charge is made for meat inspection.

Number of animals slaughtered during the year.

	Bullocks	Heifers	Cows	Bulls	Calves	Pigs	Sheep
Normal Kill	601	378	-	-	3	1038	2408
Casualties	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Total	601	378	-	-	3	1038	2413

Meat and Other Organs Condemned, Surrendered and Destroyed for Tuberculosis.Swine

Heads 6

For other defined diseases.Bovine.

Heads and Tongues Abscesses 2; Actinobacillosis 1.
 Lungs Abscesses 13; Contamination 9;
 Pleurisy 51.
 Livers Pentastones 1; Perihepatitis 1;
 Parasites 1; Cirrhosis (Whole)
 15; (Part) 97; Abscesses 35;
 Peritonitis 1.
 Hearts Pericarditis 4.
 Skirts Peritonitis 3; Pleurisy 4;
 Contamination 1.
 Kidneys Nephritis 2.
 Carcase Immaturity 1 (Weight 30lbs.)

Swine.

Lungs Pneumonia 96; Pleurisy 59.
 Livers Perihepatitis 9; Parasites 30.
 Hearts Pericarditis 55.
 Pork Bruising (Weight 3 lbs.)
 Udders Mastitis 1.
 Carcase Pyaemia (Weight 106 lbs.)

Sheep.

Lungs Abscesses 3; Pleurisy 9; Pneumonia
 15; Parasites 2.
 Livers Contamination 2; Abscesses 4;
 Parasites 46; Perihepatitis 5.

Sheep cont'd

Hearts	Pericarditis 7; Contamination 2.
Kidneys	Abscesses 2.
Heads	Parasites 1.
Carcases	Oedema 2 (Total Weight 127 lbs.)

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or in Part.

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. killed and inspected	979	-	3	2413	1038
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	1	2	1
Carcases in which some part or organ was condemned	118	-	-	69	175
Percentage affected with disease other than Tuberculosis or Cysticerci	12.05	-	33.33	2.94	16.96
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases in which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	6
Percentage affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	0.58
<u>Cysticercosis:</u>					
Carcases in which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration</u>					
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

Unsound Food Surrendered or Condemned

	tons	cwts	lbs
1. Meat at Slaughterhouse	2	5	16
2. Meat at Retail shops	-	5	61
3. Cooked Meat and Meat Products	-	-	23
4. Canned Meats	-	2	66
5. Fish	-	-	56
6. Fruit and Vegetables	-	6	51
7. Other Foods	-	12	-
Total	3	12	49

Disposal of unfit food is carried out according to circumstances and its character.

SECTION F.PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease is provided by the Regional Hospital Board at Walkergate Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne.

CASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR

	Under 1 year	1 - 2 years	3 - 4 years	5 - 9 years	10 - 14 years	15 - 24 years	25 - 34 years	35 - 44 years	45 - 54 years	55 - 64 years	65 - 74 years	75 years & over	Total
Measles	2	7	6	6	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	22
Whooping Cough	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
Dysentery	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Total	3	8	9	8	-	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	32

The two cases of food-poisoning occurred at different time of the year and were quite unconnected, one being due to *Salmonella Typhi-murium* and the other to *Salmonella Copenhagen*. The source of the former infection could not be traced but the latter infection was acquired outside the district.

The two cases of dysentery were also unconnected. One occurred in a woman who worked in a hospital in another area where a number of patients had been affected and she probably picked up the infection there.

Diphtheria

This disease, fortunately, again failed to appear in the district and it has now been absent for 17 years. It is 20 years since the last death from diphtheria occurred but it should never be forgotten that this disease was a killer and could be, again, if it were to be introduced into an inadequately protected community. For this reason, immunisation must continue to be carried out as extensively as possible.

Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus Immunisation.

In spite of the prolonged freedom from diphtheria, the great majority of parents continue to accept immunisation for their children, and this is given to infants in the form of triple antigen which protects simultaneously against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus. This is followed, at the age of 18 months - 2 years by a 'booster' dose of triple antigen and at 4½-5 years and again at 10 years by a 'booster' dose of combined diphtheria and tetanus antigen.

The record of immunisations completed is not, now, available for Ashington, alone, but refers to the whole of the Central Area of the County.

In the Central Area in 1966, 756 children completed a primary course of triple antigen, while a further 100 completed a course of diphtheria/tetanus injections.

In addition, 349 older children, not protected in infancy against tetanus, received a primary course of treatment with tetanus vaccine alone.

Re-inforcing injections against diphtheria were given to 1,928 children, against whooping cough to 720 children and against tetanus to 1,605 children.

Polio-myelitis Immunisation.

It is very pleasing to be able to report that for nine consecutive years no case of poliomyelitis has occurred in Ashington, the last case having been notified in 1957.

Undoubtedly, immunisation has been responsible for this welcome freedom from a dreaded disease and the campaign must continue to be actively carried out so that as many children as possible can be protected.

In 1966, the number of children who completed a primary course was 787, which compares unfavourably with the previous year's total of 1,174.

As a result, however, of the introduction of a re-inforcing dose at approximately two years of age the number of children receiving a 'booster' dose during the year increased from 1,028 in 1965 to 1,726 in 1966.

These figures refer to the whole of the Central Area.

TUBERCULOSISNEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1966.

	New Cases					Deaths				
	Resp		Non-Resp		Tot	Resp		Non-Resp		Tot
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 34 years	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 44 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 54 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 64 years	4	-	-	1	5	-	-	-	-	-
65 - 74 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
75 years & over	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Total	6	1	-	1	8	-	-	-	-	-

The number of new cases of respiratory tuberculosis notified in 1966 was 7, the same as in the previous year. One new case of non-respiratory tuberculosis was notified, a reduction of one on the previous year.

No death was attributed to any form of the disease.

The death-rate from respiratory tuberculosis in Ashington was Nil.

The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 0.043 per 1,000

The death-rate from non-respiratory tuberculosis in Ashington was Nil.

The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 0.005 per 1,000.

24.
MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS

The following table shows the number of deaths from malignant disease classified according to the age and sex of the patient and the site of the primary tumour.

Mortality from Malignant Neoplasms

Site of Original Tumour	Male									Female										
	1 - 4 years	5 - 14 years	15 - 24 years	25 - 34 years	35 - 44 years	45 - 54 years	55 - 64 years	65 - 74 years	75 years & over	Total	1 - 4 years	5 - 14 years	15 - 24 years	25 - 34 years	35 - 44 years	45 - 54 years	55 - 64 years	65 - 74 years	75 years & over	Total
Brain	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Eye	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Oesophagus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Breast	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	4
Stomach	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pancreas	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	2	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Gall-bladder	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Colon	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
Rectum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ovary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Uterus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Bladder	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Penis	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lymphatic & Haematopoietic Tissues	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2
Not Known	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Lung	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	7	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Total	1	-	-	1	-	4	10	10	8	34	-	-	1	-	-	1	6	8	3	19

According to the figures supplied by the Registrar-General there were 54 deaths attributed to malignant neoplasms but figures available locally give a total of 53 deaths from this cause. In 1965 there were 68 deaths from malignant neoplasms.

In 1966 there were 13 deaths from cancer of the lung, a reduction of one on the number for the previous year.

The Registrar-General's figures have been used in calculating the death rates given below.

Malignant Neoplasms of Lung and Bronchus.

Death rate in Ashington	0.493 per 1,000
Death rate in England and Wales	0.562 per 1,000

Malignant Neoplasms of All other Sites.

Death rate in Ashington	1.555 per 1,000
Death rate in England and Wales	1.687 per 1,000

Malignant Neoplasms of All Sites.

Death rate in Ashington	2.048 per 1,000
Death rate in England and Wales	2.249 per 1,000

